



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

SW

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,760	03/30/2001	Yasuhisa Fujiwara	108207	3858

25944 7590 03/12/2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

POND, ROBERT M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/820,760

Applicant(s) 

FUJIWARA, YASUHISA

Examiner

Robert M. Pond

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2, 3/30/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. **Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hyundai (a collection of prior art regarding Hyundai's Parts Online extranet, PTO-892, Items: U-W).**

Hyundai teaches all the limitations of Claims 1-6. For example, Hyundai discloses an electronic commerce method that allows users to order automotive parts online via a web site. Hyundai further discloses:

- Receiving item data and user identification at the server. User is asked to type year, model, VIN number (Item: U, pages 1-2).
- Searching for a facility; transmitting the obtained facility data to user terminal: user selects the dealer at the Web site; dealers provide parts and

Art Unit: 3625

service; users are interested in using the dealer for service (Item: V, page 2); user enters zip code to determine nearest dealership (Item: W, page 2).

- Image data; transmitting image data: online user receives repair information, data, and diagrams to ensure proper installation of parts (Item: U, page 2).
- Precise vehicle part matching: VIN ensures precise parts matching (Item: U, page 2).
- Users order parts: part ordering is easily accomplished with a few mouse clicks; access "order parts and accessories;" receiving matching parts, and pick up order of selected part(s) (Item: U, page 2).

3. Claims 8 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hyundai (a collection of prior art regarding Hyundai's Parts Online extranet, PTO-892, Items: U-W).

Hyundai teaches all the limitations of Claims 8 and 13-16. For example, Hyundai discloses an electronic commerce system that allows users to order automotive parts online by accessing a web site managed by Windows NT servers. Hyundai further discloses:

- A server computer connected to a communications network: Users access the Parts Online web site via a communications network (e.g. Internet);

Art Unit: 3625

Windows NT servers manage the web site and serve as a front end to legacy systems and databases (Item: W, page 2).

- Input means to database: user's enter information using web interface; query Hyundai's database (Item: W, page 2); User is asked to type year, model, VIN number; VIN ensures precise parts matching during search (Item: U, pages 1-2) (please note disclosures pertaining to online parts catalog hosted by the catalog publisher (first database) and Hyundai's database (second database).
- Means for searching for a facility; transmitting the obtained facility data to user terminal: user selects the dealer at the Web site; dealers provide parts and service; 20% of users are interested in using the dealer for service (Item: V, page 2); user enters zip code to determine nearest dealership (Item: W, page 2).
- Output display means: Transmits parts information, data, and diagrams to user to ensure proper installation of parts (Item: U, page 2).
- Users order parts: parts ordering is easily accomplished with a few mouse clicks; access "order parts and accessories;" receiving matching parts, and pick up order of selected part(s) (Item: U, page 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyundai (a collection of prior art regarding Hyundai's Parts Online extranet, PTO-892, Items: U-W), in view of Business Wire (PTO-892, Item: UU, hereinafter referred to as "BW").**

Hyundai teaches an electronic commerce system that allows users to order automotive parts online by accessing a web site managed by Windows NT servers. Hyundai further teaches:

- *A server computer connected to a communications network:* Users access the Parts Online web site via a communications network (e.g. Internet); Windows NT servers manage the web site and serve as a front end to legacy systems and databases (Item: W, page 2).
- *Input means to database:* user's web interface; querying Hyundai's database (Item: W, page 2); User is asked to type year, model, VIN number; VIN ensures precise parts matching during search (Item: U, pages 1-2).

- Searching for a facility; transmitting the obtained facility data to user terminal: Ordered parts can be picked up at a participating dealership (Item: U, page 2); user selects the dealer at the Web site; dealers provide parts and service; 20% of users are interested in using the dealer for service (Item: V, page 2); user enters zip code to determine nearest dealership (Item: W, page 2).
- Output means: Transmits parts information, data, and diagrams to user to ensure proper installation of parts (Item: U, page 2).
- Users order parts: part ordering is easily accomplished with a few mouse clicks; access "order parts and accessories;" receiving matching parts, and pick up order of selected part(s) (Item: U, page 2).
- Reserving installation service:

Hyundai teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches an input means for selecting one or more parts for installation, communicating with the selected dealership using email to confirm order status, and dealerships providing service, but does not disclose an input means reserving installation services. BW teaches Autoweb.com launching the Autoweb.com Service Center that offers consumers in-depth repair information and the ability to schedule automotive service appointments online (Item: UU, pages 1-2). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the system and means of Hyundai to implement online service scheduling

as taught by BW, in order to provide customers with online scheduling services, and thereby attract customers to the online service.

5. **Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyundai (a collection of prior art regarding Hyundai's Parts Online extranet, PTO-892, Items: U-W), in view of Business Wire (PTO-892, Item: UU, hereinafter referred to as "BW") and Official Notice (regarding service appointment information).**

Hyundai teaches an electronic commerce method that allows users to order automotive parts online via a web site. Hyundai further teaches:

- Receiving item data and user identification at the server: User is asked to type year, model, VIN number (please note examiner's interpretation: (Item: U, pages 1-2).
- Searching for a facility; transmitting the obtained facility data to user terminal: Ordered part can be picked up at a participating dealership (Item: U, page 2); user selects the dealer at the Web site; dealers provide parts and service; users are interested in using the dealer for service (Item: V, page 2); user enters zip code to determine nearest dealership (Item: W, page 2).
- Image data; transmitting image data: online user receives repair information, data, and diagrams to ensure proper installation of parts (Item: U, page 2).

- Precise vehicle part matching: VIN ensures precise parts matching (Item: U, page 2).

- Users order parts: part ordering is easily accomplished with a few mouse clicks; access “order parts and accessories,” receiving matching parts, and pick up order of selected part(s) (Item: U, page 2).

- Creating job management information:

Hyundai teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches selecting one or more parts for installation, communicating with the selected dealership using email to confirm order status, and dealerships providing service, but does not disclose a creating job management information. BW teaches Autoweb.com launching the Autoweb.com Service Center that offers consumers in-depth repair information and the ability to schedule automotive service appointments online (Item: UU, pages 1-2). This examiner takes the position that it is old and well-known that automotive service centers at least request information pertaining to the type of automobile to be serviced (e.g. make, model, year) and customer name. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Hyundai to create job management information as taught by BW and Official Notice, in order for service shops to effectively service the online customer, and thereby attract customers to the online service.

6. **Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyundai (a collection of prior art regarding Hyundai's Parts Online extranet, PTO-892, Items: U-W), in view of Business Wire (PTO-892, Item: UU, hereinafter referred to as "BW") and Official Notice (regarding service appointment information).**

Hyundai teaches an electronic commerce system that allows users to order automotive parts online by accessing a web site managed by Windows NT servers. Hyundai further teaches:

- A server computer connected to a communications network: Users access the Parts Online web site via a communications network (e.g. Internet); Windows NT servers manage the web site and serve as a front end to legacy systems and databases (Item: W, page 2).
- Input means to database: user's web interface; querying Hyundai's database (Item: W, page 2); User is asked to type year, model, VIN number; VIN ensures precise parts matching during search (Item: U, pages 1-2).
- Searching for a facility; transmitting the obtained facility data to user terminal: Ordered part can be picked up at a participating dealership (Item: U, page 2); user selects the dealer at the Web site; dealers provide parts and service; 20% of users are interested in using the dealer for service (Item: V, page 2); user enters zip code to determine nearest dealership (Item: W, page 2).

- Output means: Transmits parts information, data, and diagrams to user to ensure proper installation of parts (Item: U, page 2).
- Users order parts: part ordering is easily accomplished with a few mouse clicks; access "order parts and accessories;" receiving matching parts, and pick up order of selected part(s) (Item: U, page 2).
- Means for creating job management information and customer:

Hyundai teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches an input means for selecting one or more parts for installation, communicating with the selected dealership using email to confirm order status, and dealerships providing service, but does not disclose a means for creating job management information. BW teaches Autoweb.com launching the Autoweb.com Service Center that offers consumers in-depth repair information and the ability to schedule automotive service appointments online (Item: UU, pages 1-2). This examiner takes the position that it is old and well-known that automotive service centers at least request information pertaining to the type of automobile to be serviced (e.g. make, model, year) and customer name. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the system and means of Hyundai to provide a means to create job management information as taught by BW and Official Notice, in order for service shops to effectively service the online customer, and thereby attract customers to the online service.

7. **Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyundai (a collection of prior art regarding Hyundai's Parts Online extranet, PTO-892, Items: U-W), in view of PR Newswire (PTO-892, Item: X, hereinafter referred to as "PRN").**

Hyundai teaches an electronic commerce method that allows users to order automotive parts online via a web site. Hyundai further teaches:

- Receiving item data and user identification at the server. User is asked to type year, model, VIN number (please note examiner's interpretation: (Item: U, pages 1-2).
- Searching for a facility; transmitting the obtained facility data to user terminal: Ordered part can be picked up at a participating dealership (Item: U, page 2); user selects the dealer at the Web site; dealers provide parts and service; users are interested in using the dealer for service (Item: V, page 2); user enters zip code to determine nearest dealership (Item: W, page 2).
- Image data; transmitting image data: online user receives repair information, data, and diagrams to ensure proper installation of parts (Item: U, page 2).
- Precise vehicle part matching: VIN ensures precise parts matching (Item: U, page 2).

- Users order parts: part ordering is easily accomplished with a few mouse clicks; access “order parts and accessories;” receiving matching parts, and pick up order of selected part(s) (Item: U, page 2).
- Receiving a repair estimate:

Hyundai teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches online parts ordering, but does not disclose receiving a repair estimate. PRN teaches ordering online parts from a web site, and further teaches the user receiving repair cost estimates. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Hyundai to provide repair estimates as taught by PRN, in order for users to know how much the total cost of service is estimated to be, and thereby attract users who require parts and installation service.

- 8. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyundai (a collection of prior art regarding Hyundai’s Parts Online extranet, PTO-892, Items: U-W), in view of PR Newswire (PTO-892, Item: X, hereinafter referred to as “PRN”).**

Hyundai teaches an electronic commerce system that allows users to order automotive parts online by accessing a web site managed by Windows NT servers. Hyundai further teaches:

- A server computer connected to a communications network: Users access the Parts Online web site via a communications network (e.g. Internet); Windows NT servers manage the web site and serve as a front end to legacy systems and databases (Item: W, page 2).
- Input means to database: user's web interface; querying Hyundai's database (Item: W, page 2); User is asked to type year, model, VIN number; VIN ensures precise parts matching during search (Item: U, pages 1-2).
- Searching for a facility; transmitting the obtained facility data to user terminal: Ordered part can be picked up at a participating dealership (Item: U, page 2); user selects the dealer at the Web site; dealers provide parts and service; 20% of users are interested in using the dealer for service (Item: V, page 2); user enters zip code to determine nearest dealership (Item: W, page 2).
- Output means: Transmits parts information, data, and diagrams to user to ensure proper installation of parts (Item: U, page 2).
- Users order parts: part ordering is easily accomplished with a few mouse clicks; access "order parts and accessories;" receiving matching parts, and pick up order of selected part(s) (Item: U, page 2).
- Means for displaying a repair estimate:

Hyundai teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches online parts ordering, but does not disclose displaying a repair

Art Unit: 3625

estimate. PRN teaches ordering online parts from a web site, and further teaches the user receiving repair cost estimates (please note the examiner interprets this as displaying to the user repair cost estimates for at least one part). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Hyundai to display repair estimates for at least one part as taught by PRN, in order for users to know how much the total cost of service is estimated to be, and thereby attract users who require parts and installation service.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mr. Robert M. Pond** whose telephone number is 703-605-4253. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Mr. Vincent Millin** can be reached on 703-308-1065.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is **703-308-1113**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

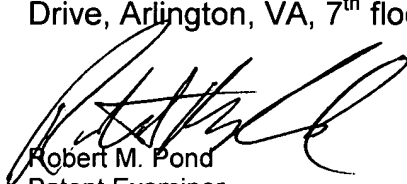
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

703-872-9306 (Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF")

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.


Robert M. Pond
Patent Examiner
March 8, 2004